

THSSDL Spring Board Meeting Minutes

April 24, 2025

In attendance: Mike Gotcher, Danielle Smallwood, Kevin Rogers, Jeff Robbins, Linda Starnes, Josh Wilson, Shane Cunningham, Doug James, Gabby Wexler, Peggy Russell, Laura Humphrey

- 1) Meeting called to order: 8:13pm
- 2) Approval of minutes from Fall 2025 board meeting:
 - a. Motion to accept minutes: Shane Cunningham
 - b. Second: Jeff Robbins
 - c. Motion passes: 9/0
- 3) Executive Director's Report: Mike Gotcher
- 4) Financial Report: Mike Gotcher
- 5) Assistant State Chair Nomination: Danielle Smallwood
 - a. Linda Starnes volunteers
 - b. Motion to accept: Jeff Robbins
 - c. Second: Shane Cunningham
 - d. Motion passes: 9/0
- 6) Doubling at State Tournament: Mike Gotcher
 - a. Communication is crucial to making sure everyone knows where to go
 - b. Indicate students who are doubling on judge ballots
- 7) Student Congress Improvement Committee: Danielle Smallwood
 - a. Student Congress is inconsistent
 - b. There are differences between National Circuit and TN Congresses
 - c. Create a committee to revise and review rules: Christina Crutcher, Jeff Robbins, Matt Grimes
- 8) Manual and Ballots: Kevin Rogers
 - a. Presented revised judging ballots
 - b. These need to be presented to the membership for review
 - c. Possibility to set session to review at fall conference

9) One Act and Interp Rules and Location Needs

- a. Can be difficult to find suitable spaces
- b. As long as they are consistent, it should be good

10) Theatre Festival: Kevin Rogers

- a. Concern over Interp Finals and One Act occurring at same time
- b. Interp finals would not be able to happen on stage
- c. Discussion over whether doubling would accomplish the same thing
- d. Numbers and prestigiousness have decreased
- e. Currently no sweepstakes considerations for theatre events
- f. Will bring proposal for theatre sweepstakes
- g. Motion to table: Kevin Rogers
- h. Second: Shane Cunningham
- i. Motion passes: 9/0

11) Bid Tournaments: Jeff Robbins

- a. Tournaments that use THSSDL rules can submit placements for qualifying bids for State
- b. Could help raise the level of competition
- c. Would allow more opportunity for students to compete at State and help level the playing field
- d. Committee to examine: Gabby Wexler, Shane Cunningham, Jeff Robbins

12) District difficulties

- a. Programs like Urban Debate League impact school participation
- b. Many district tournaments are small
- c. Schools don't want people coming in on Friday

13) Krider Award

- a. District 1: Amanda Nixon
- b. District 2: None
- c. District 3: Christina Crutcher
- d. District 4: None
- e. District 5: Hunter Graybeal

14) Hall of Fame

- a. District 1: None
- b. District 2: None
- c. District 3: None
- d. District 4: None
- e. District 5: Peggy Russell

15) Executive Director Search Committee: Linda Starnes

- a. Mike Gotcher asked board to accept his resignation
- b. Resignation was accepted
- c. Danielle Smallwood proposed as new Executive Director
- d. Motion to accept Danielle as Executive Director with a full board performance review after two years: Peggy Russell
- e. Second: Shane Cunningham
- f. Motion passes: 9/0

16) State 2026

- a. April 24-25
- b. Jefferson County High School

17) Adjournment:

- a. Motion to adjourn: Jeff Robbins
- b. Second: Shane Cunningham
- c. Motion passes: 9/0

Adjourned: 11:52pm